



BCG Newsletter



14 November 2023





After a much needed half term holiday everyone came back rested, which was just as well as it was a very eventful week.

BCG Remembers

Well it has been an extremely busy few weeks! On Friday the whole school gathered to pay respects to those that have lost their lives while fighting to ensure we can live in a peaceful world. There are currently over 30 different war zones across the world, and of course the wars in the Ukraine and the Middle East affect our community in particular. We heard beautiful readings from Gabriel Broomfield (Y6) and one of our School Prefects, Lidia Villanueva (Head of Lita House).

The two minute silence was bracketed by the 'Last Post' beautifully played on the trumpet by Mr Xavi Bernad, who was high above us all in the balcony. The assembly was fittingly closed by a delightful rendition of 'The Green Fields' by Eric Bogle sung by Maraike Watson-Daltun (Head of Gaudi House). She was accompanied by Miss McDonald, Mlle Beaune and Mr Flynn on the flute, violin and guitar respectively. Thank you to everyone involved in making this a very special community event.

Scary Friday

It seems so long ago now but before half term we had a very enjoyably-scary Halloween and Castanyada. The costumes were wonderful and it certainly felt like our best year yet. On a personal note, it was the first time my father had been able to visit the school and he had the pleasure of being one of the judges to the House costume competition.

Anti-bullying week

All over the school students will be raising awareness of anti-bullying week - such an important area and it is wonderful to see how engaged the students are. There is a wonderful Pledge Tree outside the Auditorium where children of all ages have hung their personal pledges for others to read.

Sixth Form - Academic Enrichment Week

As you will see later in the newsletter, the Sixth Form have been off timetable with an exciting programme of career related events for their Academic Enrichment Week. They spent three days at the Smart Expo in the city where they had a range of activities which involved them going to talks by industry experts, exploring latest technologies and meeting the leaders in a whole host of fields. On Thursday they also went to a university fair at ASB. On Friday we had a careers workshop at school led by staff from ESEI University of Barcelona. Thanks to everyone involved in making this such a worthwhile week for the students, in particular Mr Woodcock and Ms Fenton.



Road Safety

The new secondary gate at Carrer L'Alba has proven to be a great success and has certainly eased the traffic issues for parents. However we will be asking secondary students NOT to turn left out of the gate and walk towards the motorway as this is very unsafe. Please help us by asking your sons and daughters to turn right out of school and walk through the side roads if they are going to the bridge.

Mr Mower
School Principal

REMEMBRANCE DAY





SECONDARY NEWS

SIXTH FORM ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT WEEK

After lots of planning and preparation from the school and students, Monday 6th November finally saw the start of our sixth form academic enrichment week! This event was aimed at giving students the opportunity to take learning outside of the classroom and experience real-life applications of knowledge gained through the IB course, as well as considering what next steps after graduation might look like.

Before we set off, students were encouraged to get involved and participate actively throughout the entirety of the week, act as model representatives for the school, and show the attitude, maturity and responsibility we expect from our sixth form students. I am proud to say that they have gone above and beyond these requirements, and I can confidently conclude that the week was a great success, and an experience of real value for all those involved. Don't take my word for it however- here are some quotes from some of our students:

1. What were your top three highlights of the congress? Why?

"AI technology, as I realised the immense impact AI technology has on new upcoming businesses."

"The Bio stand where they presented electrical batteries made entirely from soil."

"We met a team of representatives from the Korean city of Seongnam who were projecting the idea of using drones for public services as they do in their motherland. This technology allows the reduction of crime levels and makes other things easier."

2. Which universities did you speak to? What did you learn?

"I spoke to many US universities, I got a lot of info for athletic scholarships and made lots of contacts, to whom I've already reached out to and I think can help me."

"I learnt that thanks to the level of the IB diploma, in some universities I have one year less to study."

"La salle, Temple university, St John's. Most of the universities didn't have the course I was interested in, however I discovered a new course that they all had and was very interesting and I might end up doing."

3. List something you learnt this week:

"1. Being active. 2. Do not be afraid of discovering new things. 3. Try to create something from nothing."

"You should ask very specific questions and clearly state what you want to know in order to receive a response that actually answers the question."

“ Which universities I should be applying to, how to speak professionally to representatives of companies, not to be scared to ask questions.”

Our main focus was a three day trip to the Smart City, a global congress on urban sustainability and innovation, with representation from 800 cities, from 140 countries, attended by over 25,000 visitors. Students were given subject-specific tasks, but also challenges such as a video diary and photo scavenger hunt competition with prizes including a lunch at IKEA or a take away lunch at school. These tasks aimed to help pupils be active participants, which was something they all excelled at, as the photos and videos shared below attest to!

The event really helped give the students an insight into the application of their knowledge to the real world, and more importantly, the world of tomorrow that they will soon be a part of. Students were able to attend a wide variety of talks by industry leaders and experts, interact directly with representatives from all over the world, try out first hand technology such as VR and AI, and of course, get as much free swag as they could carry!

Although Smart City took up most of our time, we also managed to fit in a trip to the CIS International University Fair at The American School of Barcelona, another activity I think was of great benefit for both Y12 and Y13 students. Pupils had the opportunity to speak directly with potential university destinations, and get a deeper understanding of their options, as well as discovering new possibilities which before hadn't been considered.

Our final activity to wrap up the week was a visiting Entrepreneurship Bootcamp given by ESEI University of Barcelona, where students were taught the necessary steps to create, develop and design potential solutions to real world problems. As they had shown all week, students again were fully engaged, and produced a series of impressive presentations on combating food waste, future-proofing education, and the technology divide.

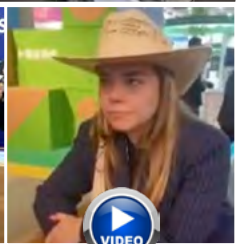
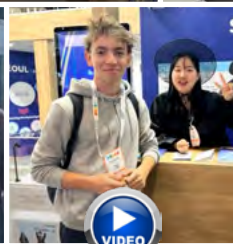
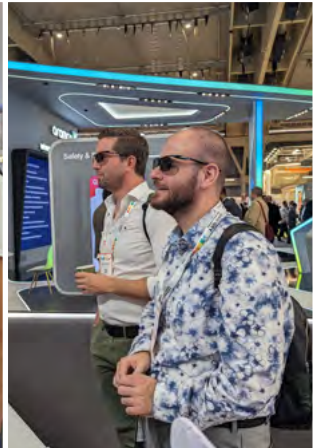
I would like to finish as I started, and that is with a focus on the students. Throughout the entirety of this week, we as teachers have received nothing but positive feedback about our students' attitude and behaviour, from Smart City reps, to university fair organisers, to the ESEI staff, so deserved credit and congratulations to all those who participated and contributed to making this a positive and rewarding experience. Further to that, from my own perspective, I am surprised at the amount of almost immediate growth I have seen in students during this week, with increased confidence, maturity and accountability, as well as the obvious academic knowledge gained.

This week really exemplifies the value of the holistic approach to learning that is at the core of the IB programme, promoting not just knowledge that will help in future paths of study and careers, but also the real life skills and values that are

equally important for a successful future. Measured by these criteria, the sixth form academic enrichment week has been a memorable and valuable experience for all involved, so thank you to the students and staff who were all responsible for making it happen!

Mr. Woodcock





DUKE OF EDINBURGH

DofE ACHIEVEMENTS AT BCG

Congratulations Ariadna and Zoe!

After months of hard work, perseverance and determination, two of our Year 12 students have been awarded with their internationally recognised and prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's International Award at Bronze Level.

This is a fantastic achievement that has been justly earned, and both Ariadna and Zoe should feel proud of all they have achieved. Congratulations! Now they are able to move on to the next stage of their journey - onwards to achieving Silver!

Miss Lane



PRIMARY NEWS

Welcome back everyone. We hope you all had a lovely, relaxing half term holiday. It was a spooky end to our last half term with the whole school Halloween celebrations. All the teachers in the EYFS and Primary team remarked on the amazing effort made with the costumes and the creative ways the house themes were included. The corridors were full of ghosts and ghouls, monsters and mummies, wizards and witches and skeletons and spiders; spooky times! This year, we are increasing the role of our House and Vice Captains in Primary and planning many events with a house focus means they will be very busy over the forthcoming months.

The new half term has started well. Everyone has returned full of energy and ready for their new learning. Already, there are some exciting events planned for the forthcoming weeks, with the EYFS and KS1 Nursery rhyme week, the Year 6

WW2 Evacuee Day and the Year 3 Roman day, naming just a few. The popular Irish dancing club has started with a fantastic number of students signed up. We cannot wait to see what they will perform for us this year. Last Friday was a very moving end to our first week back with our whole school Remembrance assembly. A thank you to all the Primary students who showed their respect throughout the 2 minute silence.



As well as the above, the first week back has seen a number of trips going out and students returning very excited. The Year 3's thoroughly enjoyed going to the Espai Maragall theatre in Gava to watch a performance all about Ratoncito Pérez. Their behaviour throughout the performance was fantastic; they loved joining in with all the singing and even some dancing. All the Year 3's now know how to brush their teeth to keep them lovely and white. The Year 2's also enjoyed a fantastic trip to the zoo because they have been learning about 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Although the overnight residentials may seem a long way off, the students are already getting themselves excited. If your son or daughter's year group offers a residential trip this year, you should have received information about their trip and how to sign up for it. The trips personnel in school are happy to help with any queries about them.

We have also launched in Primary this half term the positive messages alert. When teachers see your child doing something outstanding, either academically or socially, they can now send you as parents and carers, a positive message home about what they have seen. This is a wonderful way of sharing with you just some of the kind and lovely things we see your children doing everyday.

On a final note, students in Primary continue to look very smart in their uniforms; however a kind reminder that jewellery (small stud style earrings may be worn), unless worn for religious reasons, nail varnish, dyed hair or smart watches cannot be worn in school. We fully expect all pupils to be in the correct uniform. PE kit



only to be worn on PE days and trips. Trainers are not permitted on days where school uniform should be worn. Smart, black shoes only. We do appreciate your support and help with this.

Congratulations to Anastasia in Year 6B who is the winner of the Stand Up to Cancer Competition. For the competition, participants could guess the number of types of cells in the body. She guessed 200 exactly. Her 2 euro entry contributed towards the whopping 745,76 euros BCG raised for the cancer charities before half term. This is a phenomenal total. A huge thank you to all of the families and staff that donated.

Once again, welcome back to the new half term and we thank you for your continued support.

Miss Helen Stevens
Key Stage 2 Coordinator

VISITING THE BARCELONA ZOO

Last week Year 2 visited Barcelona Zoo as part of their topic: All Creatures Great and Small.

The children focused on Elephants and Lions in a guided tour of the zoo, looking at the animals which would live alongside these in the wild and learning about the habitat they would live in and the food they would eat.

It was a very interesting and fun trip and the children particularly enjoyed seeing the Silverback gorillas and watching the sea lions being fed.

Ms Baker



EARLY YEARS NEWS

The children have been super busy since the last newsletter. We particularly enjoyed our whole painting project for Remembrance Day on Friday in which we talked about remembering all the amazing people that lost their lives or risked their lives to keep us safe before painting some giant poppies altogether. The children were amazing, they sat perfectly quiet during the minutes of silence and enjoyed making their own mini poppies to take home.

Ms Franckeiss



ONCE UPON A HALLOWEEN





NEW STAFF

ANA-LAÏSSA GAYE LÓPEZ

French Teacher

About me

I was born in Paris with a Spanish mother and Senegalese father. I moved to Spain at the age of 14 and did my Bachillerato in my hometown, Huesca. I went to University in Barcelona to study Translation and Interpretation and then did a Masters in Audiovisual Translation. I moved to the UK and lived 4 years in London, where I did my teacher training. Afterwards, I moved to Brighton and worked in different schools as a language teacher for 9 years. I am passionate about languages and I love teaching them! I am also a melomaniac and I love swimming, yoga and hiking in the mountains.



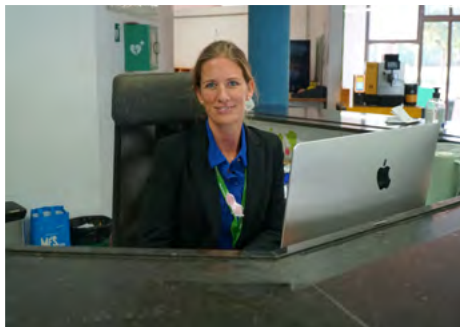
While inter-cultural understanding is a strong feature of my methodology, the key element is the place of the target language. I put a lot of emphasis on interaction through the development of particular target language routines, pair work, constant drilling, songs, miming and games. It is about engaging all learners in spontaneous interaction.

Piece of advice

Work finally begins when the fear of doing nothing exceeds the fear of doing badly.

A fun fact

My parrot Cleopatra can mimic all our voices at home.



DOMINIQUE SALOMONS

Reception and school nurse

About me

I am originally Dutch and have been living here in Spain for several years now with great pleasure.

In the Netherlands, I worked as a nurse in an intensive care unit.

I enjoy working with people, to help them. I am a real team player.

Piece of advice

Live your most beautiful life.

A fun fact

I have swum with sharks in Australia (just never mention that they were small, harmless sharks).

HENRY SOUTHALL

Secondary English Teacher

I graduated from the University of Sheffield in 2012 with a degree in Hispanic Studies and learning languages has been a core principle of my own education and enjoyment in life. This passion has facilitated my travel and work all over the world, including five years in various industries in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Upon my arrival to Barcelona in 2017, my focus shifted to teaching English in academies, businesses and international schools. More recently, I graduated from the University of Ramon Llull with a Master's degree in Secondary Education, specialising in English.



I strongly believe in placing students at the centre of their learning. This involves getting to know them, understanding their interests and learning styles and helping them achieve their maximum potential in every area of their studies.

Beyond the school environment, I am an avid sportsman and can often be found playing beach volleyball with friends. I am looking forward to implementing comprehensive and engaging language and literature lessons at BCG.

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Theater trip - Y3 / 'El ratolí Pérez'

For the Catalan subject, the Year 3 students have gone to the theater of Espai Maragall to see a play called 'El ratolí Pérez'. During these weeks, we have been working on the characters and the plot of the story to go well prepared to the theater and the result has been a success. The students have really enjoyed seeing the story come to life and interacting with the characters. As a result, it has opened up many topics that we will address in the future in class such as managing emotions and the importance of oral health.

*Ms Moncayo & Ms Paulina
Primary Catalan and Spanish Teachers*



The Spanish Challenge: Do you accept the challenge? - Secondary & IB

Next Monday, November 20th, "The Spanish Challenge" arrives at BCG: an opportunity to encourage the motivation of our high school students of Spanish as a second language and, of course... Challenge them!

Thus, the Spanish teacher (Miss Silvia) will post every Monday in Google Classroom a "linguistic challenge" (related to one of the topics taught in class) that students will have to solve during the week.

The students will have four days to solve it successfully and the first three of each course will get the Positive House Point.

Don't miss out on your Positive House Point!

*Ms Silvia Company
Secondary and IB Spanish Teacher*





OUR LANGUAGE CLUBS

Oral Presentations Club in Catalan and Spanish

We continue practicing and learning strategies to speak in public with confidence and effectiveness in our languages, managing the information we want to mention well in our speech and controlling the stress that this kind of activity generates. Our club participants have already taken the first proposed task, in which they had to make a three-minute presentation on a topic totally unknown to them: The Olympic Games of Barcelona 92 or The 9/11 events in New York. Fantastic results!

Mr. Sales
Spanish and Catalan Teacher

FRENCH CLUB FOR FRENCH SPEAKERS - Y10-11

Bonjour à tous!

If you were unable to choose French as one of three GCSE options but are still eager to continue learning the language of Moliere, you should consider joining the French club!

The Pipelettes club was created this year for Key Stage 4 native students who could not select French as a foreign language for their GCSE.

Since September, the club has been focused on preparing for the November of the official iGCSE examinations in French, which some Y10 and Y11 students will be taking very shortly. Just a reminder that for those students attending the French club the November session will take place on Wednesday 22 November.

Attendance has been excellent so far, with students working on exam techniques and practising the challenging grammar exercises.

The club meets on Mondays at 13:15 in S217 and will soon be open to Foreign language students as the MOCK exams approach.

Ms Delmet
Secondary and IB French Teacher

BCG DINING ROOM

Ausolan, as the company responsible for school meals, has as its main objective that from a very young age children become aware of what a balanced and healthy diet represents.

Our menus are prepared in the Nutrition and Dietetics Department by registered dietitians who are specialists in children's nutrition. To elaborate the menus we follow the guidelines of the Mediterranean Diet using seasonal and local foods. We also introduce recommendations from "La guía de la Alimentación Saludable en la Etapa Escolar" published by the Generalitat: we reduce the presence of red and processed meats, we increase the presence of legumes and vegetable protein, we offer fresh vegetables daily and we include gastronomic proposals related to cultural and festive aspects of our environment.

If you have any doubts or questions about the menus, please contact us at the following e-mail dietistarcn@ausolan.com.

Recently the kitchen has been equipped with extra machinery (ovens, hot cupboards) and renovated machines (a new dishwasher) among others, to continue improving our service.

Best regards,

Ausolan



GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS



GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS

